

BLUE VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT COMMUNITY SERVICE GUIDELINES

By definition, community service refers to activities undertaken for the benefit of others for no financial reward.

There is such a wide range of activities that qualify as community service it is difficult to produce an exhaustive list.

The final decision about what types of activities will and will not qualify will be left to the discretion of each building's community service coordinator.

Criteria

For activities to qualify as community service they should:

- Be for the benefit of others;
- Give service to an area in need;
- Not involve payment.

Community service activities may be:

- School-oriented, community-oriented, or faith-based oriented;
- Performed during school hours or outside of school hours;
- Direct (one-on-one with a person or persons) or indirect (such as a food drive).

Activities that **do not qualify** as community service include:

- Activities that are part of a student's normal academic day (i.e. participating in the school play or playing in the school band);
- Belonging to an organization (i.e. Cub Scouts or Brownies). However, if the student participates in a qualifying community service project as part of that group, then those hours could be counted;
- Activities that are performed as part of the "family unit" (i.e. babysitting siblings, grocery shopping, gardening, washing the car, etc.);
- Personal enrichment activities (i.e. dance lessons, cooking class, community play etc.);
- Before and after-school extracurricular activities (i.e. cheerleading, clubs, etc.);
- Travel time.

The President's Volunteer Service Award is awarded to students who are less than 14 years old and volunteer at least 50 hours of community service in a year, and to students who are 14 or older who volunteer at least 100 hours a year.